

Ways and Means

Mr. Chairman, over the past five years this side of the house has entreated the government to do something to alleviate the unemployment situation. Since June 24 of this year it appears they have been attempting to do something, however ineffectual it may be. On March 15, 1955, when speaking of prime minister St. Laurent, the hon. member for Prince Albert, as reported on page 2039 of *Hansard*, said:

Will he not state that he realizes that if we continue to deliberately delude ourselves concerning the unemployment situation we shall bring about a fear complex in this country which will have serious results in the future?

I would point out that that was the attitude of the present Prime Minister in the days of 1955; yet he buries his head in the sands of the present day and certainly beclouds any picture or attempt being made to show what the actual situation is. I should like to make reference to a statement made by a gentleman in the other place, in which he said that this side of the house debases the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister's position. This gentleman was the director of the campaign which took place last spring; he was the campaign director for the Conservative party.

I should like hon. members of the committee to remember this statement when I read a transcript, which I propose to read now, of an election broadcast made by the Conservative party on June 15 of this year. I quote:

Here is important news.

I must warn hon. members of the opposition not to applaud this too vigorously, even though it is one of their own revelations, because they will find this is as much of a lie, perhaps, as anything could possibly be. So I just ask them to listen carefully. The statement went on:

The dominion bureau of statistics announces the greatest increase in jobs in any month in Canadian history: 247,000 new jobs were created in the month of May. Department of Labour economists flatly predict June will see for all those who want to work full employment in Canada. This news is clear proof that Canada's economy is heading toward the greatest year in history. The reasons for this are clear—pushing our export trade, encouragement of industry, solid planning over the past four years by John Diefenbaker and his team.

We repeat this most important news: bureau of statistics this morning announces the greatest increase in jobs in any month in Canadian history.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Byrne: Do I hear some hon. members say "hear, hear"?

Department of Labour flatly predicts this month will see full employment in Canada. We can't afford to take a chance. Keep Canada moving forward; Monday re-elect the Diefenbaker team.

[Mr. Byrne.]

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Byrne: Nothing wrong with that. Now, I heard this pronouncement while driving in my car with four unemployed hitchhikers as passengers. I would not care to repeat just what reception they gave this announcement. However, I decided in my own good time to write to this radio station and ask for a transcript of this broadcast. I received a reply from the station operator, who said: "I shall be happy to obtain for you the Conservative roorback that was broadcast on June 15". I did not pay much attention to the meaning of "roorback", but I took the trouble recently to look up the definition in Webster. I want the members of the government to understand that "roorback" was not my suggestion or the suggestion of any Liberal; it was something coming from the manager of the radio station, who was certainly not politically influenced. "Roorback" means a lie; a fictitious report made for the purpose of influencing an election. That is what the manager of the radio station said; it is not important in so far as this debate is concerned.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Byrne: I am giving the facts. We will recall what the Prime Minister had to say. I did not give all of his quotations, of course, this was a quotation of the Prime Minister on June 14:

We have given you the facts. We have bared the record. We have concealed nothing and shaded nothing.

I now propose to show that this fictitious statement made by the Conservative party on June 15 was a lie and was fraudulent.

Mr. Grafftey: I rise on a point of order.

Mr. Byrne: I ask the Minister of Labour either to accept the fact that if there was full employment in June of this year—

The Chairman: The parliamentary secretary wishes to speak to a point of order.

Mr. Grafftey: The hon. member has consistently used the word "lie".

Mr. Byrne: I hope these interruptions will not be taken from my time.

Mr. Grafftey: The hon. member who was just speaking has consistently used the word "lie" which I believe to be unparliamentary, and I ask that he withdraw it.

Mr. Byrne: If that is viewed as being unparliamentary, that is O.K. with me.

Mr. Chevriér: I rise on a point of order. The rule is quite clear. The hon. member